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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/644,172	08/20/2003	Andre Sirilutporn Chan	HSJ920030066US1	5691

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EXAMINER

KLIMOWICZ, WILLIAM JOSEPH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2627

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imai et al. (JP 2002-109858 A) in view of Subramaniam et al. (US 6,788,493).

As per claim 1, Imai et al. (JP 2002-109858 A) discloses a hard disk drive, comprising: a housing (e.g., FIG. 1); a disk (11) mounted to the housing and being rotatable relative to the housing, the disk defining an axis of rotation (about spindle (12)) and a radial direction relative to the axis, and the disk (11) having a downstream side (e.g. adjacent designator (45a)) wherein air flows away from the disk (11), and an upstream side (e.g., adjacent designator (49a)) wherein air flows toward the disk (11); an actuator (25) mounted to the housing and being movable relative to the disk (11), the actuator (25) having a head (32) for reading data from and writing data to the disk (11); a bypass channel (45a, 45b, 45c, 50) formed in the housing for directing air flow generated by rotation of the disk (11).

Additionally, as per claim 5, wherein the bypass channel (45a, 45b, 45c, 50) is located between an outer perimeter of the housing and the actuator (25), such that the bypass channel (45a, 45b, 45c, 50) completely circumscribes the actuator (25).

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As per claim 13, wherein the bypass channel (45a, 45b, 45c, 50) is a full bypass that extends from the downstream side of the disk (11) to an upstream side of the disk (11).

As per claim 1, Imai et al. (JP 2002-109858 A) does not expressly disclose wherein a diffuser is located in the bypass channel adjacent to a downstream side of the disk and offset from the disk in the radial direction, such that the diffuser reduces drag from the disk due to disk wake in the bypass channel.

Subramaniam et al. (US 6,788,493), however, discloses an apparatus, comprising: a diffuser (e.g., 418, 518) adapted to reduce drag from a disk (26) due to disk wake in a bypass channel, the diffuser (e.g., 418, 518) having a comb-like structure (due to fins) having a pair of axially-oriented side walls (e.g., the leftmost vertical thin side wall of member (556); the other side wall being the right-most vertical thin side wall of member (556) as seen in FIG. 5) and at least one air foil (558A, 558B, 558C) extending between the side walls, as per claims 1 and 6.

Given the express teachings and motivations, as espoused by Subramaniam et al. (US 6,788,493), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the diffuser as taught by Subramaniam et al. (US 6,788,493) in the bypass channel of Imai et al. (JP 2002-109858 A).

The rationale is as follows: one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to provide the diffuser as taught by Subramaniam et al. (US 6,788,493) in the bypass channel of Imai et al. (JP 2002-109858 A) in order to decrease the fluid velocity near the storage disks, thus reducing wake turbulence in a diverting channel flow path (see abstract of Subramaniam et al. (US 6,788,493)).

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-3, 5-16, and 18-24 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of copending Application No. 10/644,706. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant claims of application SN 10/644,706 set forth the subcombination of a diffuser, contraction, air foil(s), filter(s), etc. as set forth in pending claims 1-24 of SN 10/644,172, but does not explicitly/positively set forth its intended operating environment (i.e., a disk drive).

Application No. 10/644,172 by the same inventive entity, sets forth all of the claimed structure within the scope, but with the addition of positively set forth disk drive structure.

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Given the express claim language as provided for in the instant application (i.e., SN 10/644,705), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have claimed within the same application the intended, conventional and ubiquitous operating environment of the disk drive, as set forth in the claims of Application No. 10/644,172 in order to provide a scope of coverage that include the intended operating environment of the claims of the instant application.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

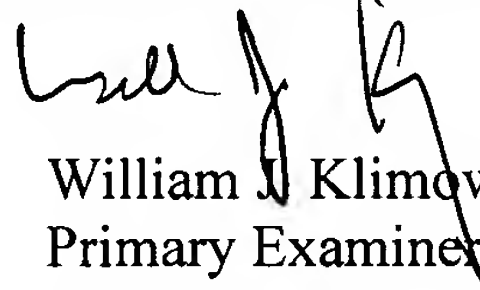
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William J. Klimowicz whose telephone number is (571) 272-7577. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (6:30AM-5:00PM).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Thi Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-7579. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


William J. Klimowicz
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2627

WJK